Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

a user selecting, at a first computer, at least one vision tool, said vision tool being remotely located from said first computer;

in response to the selection by the user of the at least one vision tool, sending, via a communications network, image data, an indication of the vision tool that was selected by the user, and at least one vision tool parameter corresponding to said vision tool, from the first computer to a remotely located second computer that includes the vision tool;

validating said image data, said vision tool, and said at least one vision tool parameter, at said remotely located second computer;

processing said image data at said remotely located second computer using the vision tool to produce a result; and

sending the result to a designated location.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein an indication of an image data location is sent, via said communications network, from said first computer to said remotely located second computer.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein client account information is sent along with the at least one vision tool parameter that is sent from said first computer via said communications network to said remotely located second computer.

Claim 5 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein said communications network between said first computer and said remotely located second computer includes an Internet connection.

Claim 6 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein said communications network between said first computer and said remotely located second computer includes a wide area network connection.

Claim 7 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is said first computer.

Claim 8 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is a computer other than said first computer.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 4, wherein said at least one vision tool parameter is entered at said first computer.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising:

acquiring said image data at said first computer.

Claim 12 (Original). The method of claim 3, further comprising:

acquiring said image data at said remotely located second computer.

Claim 13 (Original). The method of claim 11, wherein said acquiring includes retrieving said image data from an image acquirer using an acquisition command.

Claim 14 (Original). The method of claim 12, wherein said acquiring includes retrieving said image data from said image data location.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 11, wherein said image data is acquired from ~~form~~ a location remote from said first computer.

Claim 16 (Original). The method of claim 11, wherein said image data is acquired from a location on said first computer.

Claim 17 (Original). The method of claim 10, wherein said at least one vision tool parameter is entered manually by a user at said first computer.

Claim 18 (Original). The method of claim 10, wherein said at least one vision tool parameter is entered using an application program on said first computer.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended). A system comprising:

a first computer configured to send at least one vision tool parameter in accordance with a selected vision tool;

a remotely located second computer configured to analyze image data using said at least one vision tool parameter with said vision tool to produce an analyzed result to be sent by said second computer to a designated location, the remotely located second computer including:

a receiver configured to receive said image data, an indication of the selected vision tool, and said at least one vision tool parameter from said first computer;

a validator configured to verify said image data and said at least one vision tool parameter;

an analyzer configured to analyze said image data and said at least one vision tool parameter to obtain an analyzed result; and

a transmitter configured to send, via said communications link, said analyzed result from said remotely located second computer to a designated location; and

a communications link configured to facilitate the transmittal of data and the analyzed result, said communications link ~~to be~~ being located between said first computer and said remotely located second computer.

Claim 20 (Original). The system according to claim 19, wherein said first computer is configured to send said image data to said remotely located second computer to be used by said vision tool.

Claim 21 (Original). The system according to claim 19, wherein said first computer is further configured to send an indication of an image data location to said remotely located second computer.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended). The system according to claim 19, wherein said first computer comprises:

a collector configured to use a distributed processing protocol, wherein said collector retrieves said at least one vision operation tool parameter from ~~on~~ one or a combination of local and remote computers;

a transmitter configured to send said at least one vision tool parameter, and an indication of at least one selected vision tool, from ~~form~~ said first computer to said remotely located second computer; and

a receiver configured to receive an analyzed result from said remotely located second computer via said communications link.

Claim 23 (Original). The system according to claim 22, wherein said collector further retrieves image data from one or a combination of local and remote computers.

Claim 24 (Original). The system according to claim 22, wherein said transmitter is configured to send said image data from said first computer to said remotely located second computer via the communications link.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended). The system according to claim 22, wherein said transmitter is further configured to send, via the communications link, an indication of an image data location from said first computer to said remotely located second computer.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended). The system according to claim 22, wherein said collector comprises:

a client data procurer to acquire image data; and

a selector configured to select, at said first computer, at least one vision tool, said at least one vision tool being configured to be remotely located from said first computer.

Claim 27 (Original). The system according to claim 26, wherein said client data procurer retrieves said image data from an image acquirer.

Claim 28 (Original). The system according to claim 19, wherein said communications link comprises an Internet connection.

Claim 29 (Original). The system according to claim 19, wherein said communication link comprises a wide area network connection.

Claim 30 (Original). The system according to claim 22, wherein said distributed processing protocol is a CORBA application.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented). The system according to claim 19, wherein said receiver is configured to receive image data from said first computer.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented). The system according to claim 19, wherein said receiver is further configured to receive an indication of an image data location from said first computer.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented). The system according to claim 19, wherein said remotely located second computer further comprises a validator to verify account information from said first computer.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Previously Presented). The system according to claim 19, wherein said validator is located within said selected vision tool.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented). The system according to claim 19, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is said first computer.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented). The system according to claim 19, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is a computer other than said first computer.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended). Apparatus ~~An apparatus~~ comprising:

a computer configured to communicate with a remotely located second computer via a communications link, said remotely located second computer including:

a receiving portion configured to receive, from the computer, image data, at least one vision tool parameter, and an indication of a selection of at least one vision tool ~~from said remotely located second computer~~;

a validator to validate client identifier information received on said receiving portion;

an analyzing portion configured to analyze said image data and said at least one vision tool parameter using said at least one selected vision tool to obtain an analyzed result; and

a transmitting portion configured to send said analyzed result from said analyzing portion to a designated location via said communications link.

Claim 40 (Canceled).

Claim 41 (Original). The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said communications link between said computer and said remotely located second computer includes an Internet connection.

Claim 42 (Original). The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said communications link between said computer and said remotely located second computer includes a wide area network connection.

Claim 43 (Original). The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is said remotely located second computer.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended). The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ of claim 39, wherein said designated location to receive said analyzed result is a third computer other than said remotely located second computer.

Claims 45 – 50 (Canceled).

Claim 51 (Currently Amended). A computer-readable medium encoded with a program for analyzing machine vision image data, said program interoperable with a computer to cause ~~comprising~~:

sending, via a communications link, image data, an indication of a choice of a vision tool, and at least one vision tool parameter that corresponds to said choice of a vision tool, from a first computer to a remotely located second computer that includes said choice of a vision tool;

validating said image data and said at least one vision tool parameter;

analyzing said image data and said at least one vision tool parameter at said remotely located second computer using said choice of a vision tool to produce an analyzed result; and

sending said analyzed result form said remotely located second computer to a designated location via said communications link.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 51, said program further ~~comprising~~ causing sending said image data, via said communications link, from ~~form~~ said first computer to said remotely located second computer.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 51,, said program further ~~comprising~~ causing sending an indication of an image data location, via said communications link, from ~~from~~ said first computer to said remotely located second computer.

Claim 54 (Canceled).

Claim 55 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 51, said program further ~~comprising~~ causing entering at least one vision tool parameter at said first computer.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 52, said program further ~~comprising~~ causing:

acquiring said image data at said first computer.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 53, said program further ~~comprising~~ causing:

acquiring said image data at said remotely located second computer.

Claim 58 (Original). The computer-readable medium according to claim 56, wherein said acquiring includes retrieving said image data from an image holder using an acquisition command.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 57, wherein said acquiring includes retrieving said image data from ~~form~~ said image data location.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 51, said program further ~~comprising~~ causing acquiring said image data from a location remote from said first computer.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 51, said program further causing acquiring said image data from a location ~~wherein said image data is located~~ on said first computer.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, said program further ~~comprising~~ causing receiving at said first computer a manually entered ~~manually entering said~~ at least one vision tool parameter ~~by a user at said first computer~~.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended). The computer-readable medium according to claim 56, ~~wherein~~ said program further causing receiving at said first computer ~~comprises entering said~~ at least one vision tool parameter entered using an application program on said first computer.

Claims 64-68 (Canceled).

Claim 69 (Currently Amended). Apparatus ~~An apparatus~~ comprising:

a computer configured to communicate with a remotely located second computer via a communications link, the computer including~~;~~ :

a receiving portion configured to receive, from said remotely located second computer, image data, at least one vision tool parameter, and an indication of a selection of at least one vision tool ~~from said remotely located second computer~~;

an analyzing portion configured to analyze said image data and said at least one vision tool parameter using said at least one selected vision tool to obtain an analyzed result; and

a transmitting portion configured to send said analyzed result from said analyzing portion to a designated location via said communications link.